

Application No. 10/023,269
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended based on the subject matter of claim 4 to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby the fuel charging portion comprises a degradable portion made from a degradable material which is degradable into a component of natural soil.

In addition, claim 43 has been amended based on the subject matter of claims 4 and 44 to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the power supply system comprises a fuel charging portion in which a fuel is charged and a power generation portion which generates the electric power by using the fuel supplied from the fuel charging portion, and whereby the fuel charging portion comprises a degradable portion made from a degradable material which is degradable into a component of natural soil.

Still further, claims 1-3, 7-17, 43, 45 and 46 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements and/or to correct some minor antecedent basis problems so as to put them in better form for issuance in a U.S. patent.

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No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1-3, 7-17, 43, 45 and 46 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-3, 8-10, 12-17 and 43-46 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by WO 00/52779 ("Kelley et al") and/or EP 0 959 512 ("Kudo et al"); claims 1 and 4-7 were also rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of WO 00/35032 ("Hockaday et al") and JP 08-244781 ("Hachifusa et al"); and claim 11 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of Kudo et al. These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As acknowledged by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action, Hockaday et al does not disclose a fuel charging portion which comprises a degradable portion. For this reason, the Examiner has cited Hachifusa et al to supply the missing teaching of Hockaday et al.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that Hachifusa et al is directed to a degradable plastic bottle. As explained in paragraph [0003] of the machine translation of Hachifusa et al, the plastic bottle is used to hold a carbonated drink, a seasoning, cosmetics, or a liquid detergent, for example. Thus,

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it is respectfully submitted that Hachifusa et al is merely related to a degradable plastic container for conventional consumer products.

By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in claim 1, a fuel charging portion in which a fuel is charged comprises a degradable portion made from a degradable material which is degradable into a component of natural soil. And it is respectfully submitted that the plastic bottle disclosed by Hachifusa et al is not at all related to the fuel charging portion of the claimed present invention.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that it would not at all have been obvious to combine the unrelated teachings of Hachifusa et al with Hockaday et al to achieve the feature of the claimed present invention whereby a fuel charging portion comprises a degradable portion.

Still further, it is respectfully pointed out that Kudo et al and Kelley et al also do not disclose, teach or suggest a fuel charging portion comprising a degradable portion in the manner of the claimed present invention.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 43, as well as claims 2, 3, 7-17, 44 and 46 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Kudo et al, Kelley et al, Hockaday et al and Hachifusa et al, taken

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singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under
35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the
passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or
recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the
undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt
action.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Holtz
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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